The risk free, assured, regular returns, easy availability and liquidity of small savings schemes as well as the tax benefits enjoyed on PPF, NSC (VIII Issue) and Post Office Savings Accounts continue to contribute to the attractiveness of the small saving schemes.

Model code for procurement

†3553. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any model code regarding procurement has been evolved which will be obligatory for all Ministries/Departments at the time of giving contracts and supply; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) General Financial Rules 2005 have been promulgated *w.e.f* 1st July, 2005, with a view to recommend systems and procedures which will be in tune with liberalized and growing economy. General Financial Rules (GFRs) are a compendium of general provisions to be followed by all offices of Government of India while dealing with matters of a financial nature. The general provisions relating to purchase of goods contained in Chapter 6 of the GFRs lay down some general rules applicable to all Ministries/Departments. Detailed instructions relating to procurement may be issued by the procuring departments broadly in conformity with the general rules contained in GFRs. Further, "Manual on Policies and Procedures for Purchase of Goods" has been issued which' contain generic guidelines, wherein Ministries and Departments are required to supplements this Manual by issuing detailed operating instructions, to serve as practical instructions for their offices to suit their local/specialized needs.

Evasion of duties by exporting unit

3554. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the issues concerned with M/s Sterlite Optical

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.